

Docket No.: K-0592



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Confirmation No.: 2611

Geon KIM, Yu Beom KANG and Sang
Man JE

Group Art Unit: 1746

Serial No.: 10/730,285

Examiner: Frankie L Stinson

Filed: December 9, 2003

Customer No.: 34610

For: **WASHING MACHINE AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF**

REPLY TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed on April 19, 2007, Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-18) with traverse for further prosecution on the merits.

The Restriction Requirement indicates that claims 19-22 (Group II) are directed to an invention distinct from claim 1-18 (Group I), and requires election between the two groups of claims. However, as indicated in the Amendment filed February 1, 2007, independent claim 19 is merely claim 4 substantially rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the Office Action dated November 2, 2006. Thus, the Examiner has already searched this claim and found it allowable. Accordingly, the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that any further search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

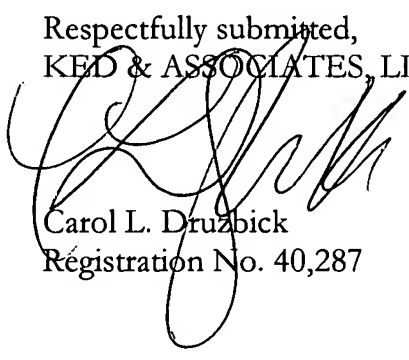
Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Serial No. **10/730,285**

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP



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Date: May 15, 2007

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